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MALLING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

for

1 9 4 3.

By the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. N. HAY BOLTON)

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. S. L. BUNDY).

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WEST MALLING.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling R.D.C.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the area for the year ended 31st December, 1943. as in previous years the report is confined to essential matters only.

I am pleased to be able to report that the vital statistics continue to remain s atisfactory. The death rate of 11.34 per 1,000 population, compares very favourably with the corresponding figure for England and Wales, which was 12.1 per 1,000 civilian population, whilst the birth rate of 17.68 is 1.18 higher than the figure for the country as a whole.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious diseases during the year. Five hundred and twenty four cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. I would point out however, that measles and whooping cough accounted for over two thirds of the total number of notifications.

SECTION A.

Area of the District (in acres)	45,650
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	30,870
Number of inhabited houses (end 1943) according to rate books - computed	9,440
Rateable Value	195,987
Sum represented by a penny rate	£795

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Legitimate	510	277	233
Illegitimate	36	20	16
Total Live Births	546	297	249
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			17.68

Still Births	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	2	2	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			30.89

Deaths	
Total	350
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	11.34
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other maternal causes . . .	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	36.62
Legitimate infants per 1,000	
Legitimate live births	11.76
Illegitimate infants per 1,000	
Illegitimate live births	55.55
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	55
" " measles " "	3
" " whooping cough (all ages) . . .	Nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	

SECTION B.

Public Health Staff. No changes have been made and the staff remains the same as recorded in my Report for the year 1938.

(a) Laboratory Facilities. These facilities are adequate and remain unchanged.

(b) Ambulance Services. No important changes have been made in these services.

(c) Nursing in the Home. The village nursing associations did good work during the year under review, and in spite of difficulties, due to war conditions, maintained a high level of efficiency at all times.

No changes have taken place in the arrangements for the treatment of infectious diseases.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Kent County Council administer these services and excellent work has been carried out during the year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The following cases of notifiable diseases occurred during the year:-

Diseases.	Total Notified.	Admitted to East Malling Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	72	71	-
Whooping cough	97	-	-
Diphtheria	15	16	1
Erysipelas	11	-	-
Measles	313	-	3
Pneumonia	37	-	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-
Totals -	548	87	23

The following table is inserted for comparison purposes with the death and notification rates for England and Wales. It will be seen that the comparison is extremely favourable:-

	England and Wales.	Malling R. D.
Rates per 1,000 population (civilian).		
Deaths:-		
All caus es	12.1.	11.34
Typhoid Fever . . .	0.00.	0.00
Para-Typhoid Fever . .	0.00.	0.00
Scarlet Fever . . .	0.00.	[illegible]
Whooping Cough . . .	0.03.	[illegible]
Diphtheria	0.03.	
Influenza	0.37.	.035.
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	0.02.	.009.
Notifications.		
Typhoid	0.01.	0.00.
Para-Typhoid Fever . .	0.01.	0.00.
Cerebro Spinal Fever .	0.08.	0.00.
Scarlet Fever . . .	3.01.	2.33.
Whooping Cough . . .	2.54.	2.14.
Diphtheria . . .	0.88.	.48.
Erysipelas . . .	0.31.	0.36.
Smallpox . . .	0.00.	0.00.
Measles . . .	9.88.	10.14.
Pneumonia . . .	1.34.	1.7

Tuberculosis - Respiratory.

Seventeen deaths were registered as due to this disease as compared with twenty six for the previous year. The death rate was .55 per 1,000 population. Thirty two new cases were added to the register as compared with twenty three for the previous year.

Tuberculosis - Non-respiratory.

Four deaths were registered as due to other forms of tuberculosis, yeilding a death rate of .13 per 1,000 population. Seven cases were notified during the year.

The following table sets out in age groups the new cases recorded in the register during the year, together with such deaths as occurred:-

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1								
1 - 5	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	1
15 - 25	7	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	1	1	1	1	1
35 - 45	3	3	-	-	4	1	-	-
45 - 55	4	2	-	-	5	2	1	-
55 - 65	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	19	13	3	4	13	4	2	2

The following table set out shows the number of deaths from all cases during the year:-

No.	Cause of Death	Number Male.	Number Female.
5.	Diphtheria.	1.	-
6.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system.	13	4
7.	Tuberculosis - other forms.	2	2
9.	Influenza.	1	-
10.	Measles.	1	2
13.	Cancer (all forms).	32	33
17.	Diabetes.	1	1
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions.	17	19
19.	Heart disease.	49	41
20.	Other diseases of the circhlatory seplim.	6	4
21.	Bronchitis.	7	9
22.	Pneumonia.	9	10
23.	Other respiratory diseases.	3	4
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duoderum.	4	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years.	3	2
26.	Appendicites.	2	-
27.	Other digestive diseases.	2	7
28.	Nephrites.	5	7
31.	Premature birth.	4	1
32.	Congenital mal; birth inj.etc.,	3	-
33.	Suicide.	3	[illegible]
34.	Road traffic acc;	1	[illegible]
35.	Other violent causes.	2	[illegible]
36.	All other causes.	14	17
	All causes.	185	165

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks for the consideration and courtesy extended to me at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

N. HAY BOLTON.

7th October, 1944. Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WEST MALLING.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in submitting the following details of the sanitary circumstances of the area, and of the work carried out by my Department for the year ended 31st December 1943.

I am pleased to be able to report that in spite of difficulties the work has been kept up to date and progress has been made.

SECTION C.

Water.

The usual routine samples of the water supply (public) were submitted to the County Laboratory. No unfavourable reports were received. Samples were also submitted by the Water Co., and the reports confirm that the water was of good quality. Great care is taken by the Water Company to ensure a pure and wholesome supply. No case of illness attributed to water has been brought to my notice during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No important improvements or developments have taken place in connection with drainage or sewerage. The electrically controlled pumps at St. Leonard's Street, New Hythe Lane, and London Road, have continued to give good service apart from minor defects.

Several filter beds at West Malling Outfall Works were renewed by direct labour and an improvement in the effulent has been noted. There is still room for improvement, however, and it is hoped to put all the beds in good condition in the near future.

Rivers and Streams.

My attention was drawn to the pollution of a river by the discharge of effluent from industrial premises. Certain works were suggested and when these are carried out it is hoped that no further cause for complaint will arise.

(a) Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

There are no important changes to report regarding the methods of collection and disposal of refuse. The service has been maintained, and disposal has been carried out by controlled tipping. Two tips are in operation, one at Preston Hall, and the other at Snodland.

During the year, at the request of the Ministry of Supply, intensive efforts were made to increase the amount of salvage collected. Meetings were held in every parish and the number of Salvage Stewards was increased to 180. In this work, Mrs. Smith, organiser, of the Women's Voluntary Service assisted, and in the parishes where only a few Salvage Stewards were active, she obtained the assistance of the members of the Women's Voluntary Service.

The total amount of salvage collected was 557 tons 1½ cwts. which produced £1,945.

As a matter of interest since the commencement of the salvage scheme, the total amount collected to the end of the year, was, 1,727 tons, which produced the sum of £6,646.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year, 2,792 inspections were carried out in connection with the work of the Department and the following detailed statement shows nuisances and defects remedied:-

Overcrowding . . .	10
Hop Pickers Camps . .	24
Sanitary accommodation:	
1. Where insufficient .	35
2. Where defective .	84
Drainage:	
1. Reconstructed . .	52
2. Repaired . .	71
3. Cleansed . .	621
Cesspools:	
1. Repaired . .	19
Offensive Accumulations removed . .	17
Refuse receptacles provided or renewed . .	204
Tents, Vans and sheds infringements rectified .	12
Smoke Nuisances abated .	-
Yard paving made good .	16
Keeping of animals . .	7

Dampness remedied in dwellings	154
Roofs and rain water pipes repaired	162
Floors relaid where rough and faulty	19
Walls and ceilings repaired	111
Windows and ventilation altered to comply with requirements. . . .	35
Baths, Lavatory Basins, sinks and Sanitary Fitments repaired or provided where absent . . .	17
Water Supplies:	
(a) New supplies provided	12
(b) Precautions for preventing contamination of existing supplies . . .	5
Miscellaneous defects remedied . . .	167

The Shops Acts, 1912 - 1936.

Inspections were carried out under the above when the opportunity arose. Minor defects were met with only, and these were remedied without recourse to formal action.

Camping Rites.

No applications were received in respect of licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. No sites in the area were used for camping.

Smoke Abatement.

It will be recalled that in my Report for the previous year, I mentioned that investigations had been carried out into complaints regarding the discharge of excessive smoke and dust from chimneys of industrial premises. During the year under review, further observations were made, and the firm concerned were approached. As a result of these representations an improvement was noted. It is not possible to say that under certain conditions the nuisance may not re-occur, but every effort has been made to try and obviate this. In view of the acute labour shortage it is difficult to suggest alterations, which after being carried out may not be a complete success.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Twenty three houses, three of which were owned by the Council, were disinfected during the year. As in previous years the method of spraying with an insecticide was carried out. One case of re-infection occurred, and further treatment proved effective.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

No serious cases of rat infestation were brought to my notice during the year. Complaints were investigated and dealt with as necessary. Every effort is made to bring home to the public the importance of taking immediate steps to prevent serious infestation of premises. The Ministry of Food officials have carried out good work in connection with the infestation of food stores, flour mills, etc.,

SECTION D.

Housing: Routine inspections were carried out under the Housing Act and Regulations, and in consequence of informal action, nineteen houses were rendered fit. No formal action was necessary.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply: One hundred and eleven inspections were carried out of farms and dairies. With one or two exceptions a good standard of cleanliness has been maint d, throughout the area. Defects of a minor nature only were noted at the time of inspection and were remedied without recourse to formal action.

No cases of infectious or other diseases attributed to milk were brought to my notice.

Eleven samples of non designated milk were submitted tubercle facilli examination.

The Milk (Special) Designation Order 1926 & 1938.

Twenty producers were registered under the above, of which three held licences for "Tuberculin Tested" and seventeen for "accredited" milk. Routine samples were submitted and "repeat" samples were necessary in three cases only.

Meat and other Foods.

The following food was condemned as unfit during the year:

[illegible] tins of Condensed Milk.
[illegible] tins of Salmon.
[illegible] lbs. of Pork Luncheon Meat.
[illegible] lbs. of Jam.
[illegible] lbs. of Bacon.
[illegible] jars of Fish Paste.
84 lbs. of Peas.
226 lbs. of tinned Beef.
[illegible] tins of Beans.
[illegible] tins of Plums.
386 tins of Evaporated Milk.
272 lbs. of Pork.
[illegible] Hams.
[illegible] tins of Pilchards.
[illegible] lbs. of Corned Beef.
[illegible] lbs. of Chopped Ham.
[illegible] lbs. of Margarine.
[illegible] lbs. of Onions.
[illegible] tin of Herrings.
23 tins of Sardines.
37 sacks of Oatmeal.
100 lbs. of Oatmeal.
27 pkts. of Egg Substitute.

4 Large Nestles Milk.
3 tins of Meat Soup.
15 pkts. of Ground Rice Pudding.
141 lbs. of Pearl Barley.
8 lbs. of Beef.
6 cwt. of Sausage Rusk.
1 lb. of Tea.
150 lbs. of Slab Cake.
1 barrel of Crabs.
2 tins of Pears.
105 doz. Eggs.
1½ lbs. of Butter.
2 tins of Pea Soup.
5½ lbs. of Steak.
150 lbs. of Biscuits.
161 lbs. of Sugar.
110 lbs. of Flour.
3 tins of Mackerel.
200 lbs. of Luncheon Sausage.
4 tins of Sausage Meat.
16 lbs. of Ox Tongue.
18 lbs. of Self Raising Flour.

(c) Adulteration, etc.,

I am indebted to the Deputy Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures (Mr. W. E. Allen) for the following details of the work carried out by Sampling Officer within the district:-

Article.	Samples.
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	2
Aspirin	1
Baking Powder	2
Balsam of Aniseed	1
Beans in Sauce	1
Bi-carbonate of Soda	1
Boracic Ointment	2
Bun Flour Mixture	1
Butter	7
Camphorated Oil	1
Castor Oil	1
Cheese	1
Cocoa	4
Coffee	6
Curry Powder	1
Dried Apple Rings	1
Fish Galantine Roll	1
Flour, Self Raising	2
Forcemeat	1
Friquix	1
Ground Ginger	1
Jam	3
Junket Powder	1
Lard	10
Lentils	2
Liquid Paraffin	1
Margarine	5
Mustard	3
New Milk	84
Oatmeal	1
Orange Squash	1
Paste	4
Pea Flour	1
Peas	2
Pepper	3
Pudding Mixture	3
Rice	2
Semolina	1
Special Margarine	2
Sponge Cake Mixture	2
Sugar	1
Sulphor Ointment	1
Sweetened Cake Mixture	2
Tea	2
Tincture of Iodine	1
Whisky	3
Zinc Ointment	3
Total	186

All samples genuine with the exception of the under-mentioned:-

1 Jam.	Genuine, but inferior.	
1 Milk.	" " "	
1 Milk.	Poor quality.	
1 Zinc Ointment.	Genuine, but inferior.	
1 Sweetened Cake Mixture.	Mouldy. Had been heavily infested with mite.	
[illegible] Milk.	Contained 28.5% added water.	) Producer fined £50 in each
" "	26.8% " "	) case and to pay £4.4.0.
		) costs.
" "	about 4.0% added water.	Same producer as above. No action taken in connection with this sample.

Hop Picking.

I have to report that the Hop picking season passed without any incident of major importance. Such infectious cases as occurred were dealt with. The district was visited by a Ministry of Health Inspector. The Inspector was greatly concerned with the wastage of food, and the conditions which generally existed at farms, especially in respect of the lavatory accommodation, through neglect and bad usage by the pickers.

In one case conditions were found to be very unsatisfactory. The owner was warned that unless conditions were improved further action would be taken, following this the owner made an effort to improve the conditions.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. L. BUNDY.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

7th October, 1944.